

STEWART AND BORLAND SEND BLUES CRASHING

By **MIKE ALLEN** Wycombe 0, Leytonstone/Ilford 2

A GOAL in each half brought Wycombe Wanderers back to reality from any dreams they may have been having about the new season when they went down 2-0 to Leytonstone / Ilford in their opening Berger Isthmian League match of the season at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Leytonstone, promoted at the end of last season, looked the more confident and determined of the two teams and were well worth their 1-0 half-time lead.

It can not have been a very pleasant return to the middle of the defence for Bobby Davies following his year out of football. And, likewise, young Steve Toll was made to suffer several times on his league debut in the defence, by the pace and eagerness of the Leytonstone forwards.

Steve's elder brother Gary, incidentally, is back in this country to stay and will be playing in the Reserves match tonight (Tuesday).

The other new player, forward Terry Glynn was given little chance to prove himself.

Wycombe started the match well with Paul Miles crossing to Steve Long whose header went across the face of the goal for Jimmy Jacobs to force a corner.

Then Leytonstone emerged to put some pressure on Wycombe and two minutes after Gary Lester in goal had made up for a terrible punch with a brilliant save to a powerful shot by Terry Hurlock, Leytonstone went ahead. Graham Stewart, making his league debut for

Leytonstone, and a late selection, rose unmarked to head home a John Borland header.

Wycombe recovered some of their poise and a neat little move was produced in the 25th minute. A free kick by Davies half way into the Leytonstone half found Fowles in the area. He played the ball on to Miles, but his shot went just past the post.

In the 37th minute, five minutes after David Jacques had been replaced by Trevor Morgan following an ankle injury, the ball ran kindly for Glynn. He passed the ball to Miles who carried the movement on to Long. He recovered the ball after losing it, only to see his shot go wide of the right hand post.

On the stroke of half time there was a mad scramble in the Leytonstone goalmouth and after several attempts the ball was finally cleared. Seconds earlier Fowles became the first of three names

into the referee's book.

Leytonstone went out in the second half revamped following their half-time pep talk. After four minutes Lester was forced to push a deflected shot round the post. Two minutes later Borg followed Fowles into the book when he brought down the speedy coloured Leytonstone right winger Paul Powell.

Following the substitution of Tony Price for Jimmy Jacobs the Blues reverted to a 4-2-4 formation, adding some extra width to the attack. In the 55th minute Wycombe could count themselves lucky not to fall further behind when Neville Fox broke away, went round Lester only to put the ball past the post.

Six minutes later Miles crossed to the incoming Kennedy who was unlucky not to get a firmer touch. As it was the ball ran off harmlessly for a goalkick.

Then, in the 20th minute of

the half, John Borland saw his shot slowed down by Lester. But despite the keeper's efforts to grab the ball it crept over the line and the referee, following confirmation by his linesman, awarded a goal.

There ended any hopes Wycombe had of salvaging something. They forced a further four corners, but nothing came of any of them, although Blues did come close to getting a penalty when Trevor Morgan brought down Long. Long also made a fine run down the right, but there was no-one in the middle to meet his cross.

Wycombe: G. Lester, S. Toll, G. Borg, B. Davies, G. Fowles, J. Jacobs (sub T. Price 54 mins), S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, P. Miles, M. Hollifield.

Leytonstone and Ilford: D. Danson, D. Jacques (sub T. Morgan 32 mins), K. Hayzelden, T. Hurlock, M. McCayna, G. Stewart, B. Wiles, J. Borland, N. Fox, P. Powell, B. Key.

Referee: M. Cotton (West Ewell).
Scorers: 0-1 — Stewart 14 mins, 0-2 Borland 65 mins.

Attendance: 800.



The first goal of the season at Loakes Park — and it goes to the wrong side. Leytonstone open their account through Graham Stewart on Saturday.